

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

- 1 1 (Currently Amended). A method for the formation of dynamic alliances between vendors with complementary capabilities to jointly pursue specific market opportunities comprising the steps of:
 - 4 receiving ~~a~~ an initial request for proposal from a customer;
 - 5 translating the request for proposal into demanded capabilities;
 - 6 matching demanded capabilities with registered vendor capabilities;
 - 7 ~~to generate~~ generating a plurality of sets of vendors which meet the demanded capabilities;
 - 9 allowing a vendor to form a coalition by dividing a received initial request for proposal into a plurality of sub-requests to be responded to by other vendors with no restriction on a number of levels of such divisions thereby creating a request for a proposal tree;
 - 13 managing the request proposal tree by controlling access to contained information;
 - 15 ~~selecting one or more a preferred coalition from coalition alternates at each level of the request proposal tree to respond to the request for proposal from the generated plurality sets of vendors; and~~
 - 18 ~~selecting a preferred coalition from the coalition alternatives aggregating coalitions at all levels in the request for proposal tree to respond to the initial request for proposal.~~

2 (Canceled).

- 1 3 (Withdrawn). A coalition formation process for the dynamic alliance between multiple vendors in a marketplace comprising the steps of:

3 receiving a customer request for proposal;
4 gathering requirements needed to respond to the request for proposal;
5 analyzing the gathered requirements to determine capabilities required
6 to respond to the request for proposal;
7 comparing required capabilities to vendor capabilities stored in a
8 database;
9 generating a shortlist of potential vendors;
10 inviting vendors on the shortlist to prepare a response to the request for
11 proposal;
12 assessing by each invited vendor the request for proposal requirements
13 and identifying additional capabilities required;
14 decomposing by an invited vendor the request for proposal into a
15 plurality of sub-request for proposals, the invited vendor becoming a customer
16 submitting the sub-request for proposals;
17 gathering requirements needed to respond to the sub-request for
18 proposals;
19 analyzing the gathered requirements to determine capabilities required
20 to respond to the sub-request for proposals;
21 comparing required capabilities to vendor capabilities stored in a
22 database;
23 generating a shortlist of potential vendors to respond to the sub-request
24 for proposals;
25 inviting vendors on the shortlist to prepare a response to the sub-
request for proposals;
26 assessing by the vendor submitting the sub-request for proposals
27 received from vendors;
28 forming a coalition of vendors responding to the sub-request for
29 proposals; and
30 presenting a proposal to the customer.

1 4 (Currently Amended). A system for the formation of dynamic alliances
2 between vendors with complementary capabilities to jointly pursue specific
3 market opportunities comprising:
4 means for receiving ~~a~~ an initial request for proposal from a customer;
5 means for translating the request for proposal into demanded
6 capabilities;
7 a database storing registered vendor capabilities;
8 means for accessing said database and matching demanded capabilities
9 with registered vendor capabilities to generate a plurality of sets of vendors
10 which meet the demanded capabilities;
11 input means for accepting from registered vendors not having all
12 demanded capabilities a coalition of vendors which meet demanded
13 capabilities, said coalition of vendors being formed through creation of sub-
14 requests by dividing the initial request for proposal and inviting other
15 veondors to respond with no restriction on a number of levels of such
16 divisions thereby creating a request for proposal tree;
17 means for managing the request for proposal tree by controlling access
18 to contained information;
19 means for selecting ~~one or more~~ a preferred coalition ~~from coalition~~
20 ~~alternates from the generated plurality sets of vendors at each level of the~~
21 ~~request for proposal tree to respond to the request for proposal at that level;~~
22 and
23 means for ~~aggregating coalitons at all levels in the request for proposal~~
24 ~~tree selecting a preferred coalition from the coalition alternatives to respond to~~
25 the initial request for proposal.

5 (Canceled).

1 6 (Currently Amended). The system recited in claim 5 4, further comprising
2 means for establishing access control privileges to coalition members of ~~the a~~
3 coalition ~~structure~~, the access control privileges applying to sharing of
4 common resources and services available to the coalition.

1 7 (Currently Amended). The system recited in claim 5 4, wherein the means
2 for selecting selects members from vendors in the database and from
3 coalitions formed by vendors in the database with other vendors not in the
4 database.

1 8 (Currently Amended). The system recited in claim 5 4, further comprising
2 means for providing common services to ~~coalition~~ members of a coalition.

1 9 (New). The method recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 establishing access control privileges to coalition members of a coalition, the
3 access control privileges applying to sharing of common resources and
4 services available to the coalition.

1 10 (New). The method recited in claim 1, wherein the step of selecting selects
2 members from vendors in a database and from coalitions formed by vendors in
3 the database with other vendors not in the database.

1 11 (New). The method recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 providing common services to members of a coalition.